

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11, which are independent, have been amended. Claim 6 was objected to because of informalities, and has been amended, obviating the objection.

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at pages 9-11. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,977,964 to Williams et al. in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0056216 A1 to Wugofski et al.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...whereby said user preference information includes a plurality of **registration patterns, which is to be selected first by a user, preceding a selection of corresponding search criteria** ...”
(Emphasis Added)

As understood by Applicants, the portions of U.S. Pat. No. 5,977,964 to Williams et al. cited in the Office Action (hereinafter, merely “Williams”) relate to a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and access times. A system controller configures the operating parameters of the system in accordance with the user preference information of the user profile corresponding to the determined entertainment system user. (see abstract, emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, the portions of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0056216 A1 to Wugofski et al. cited in the Office Action (hereinafter, merely “Wugofski”) relate to a system for managing favorite channel lists on a television. The favorite channel lists are dynamically created by a computerized system and not by a user manually specifying which channels are to be included. (see abstract, emphasis added)

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Williams or Wugofski, taken alone or in combination, that discloses or suggests the above-identified features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that both Williams and Wugofski teach away from Applicants' claimed invention because both references describe a direction divergent from the path taken by Applicants. Specifically, Williams teaches that a "...system controller 104 dynamically configures the operating parameters of system 100 in accordance with user preference information of the user profile corresponding to the determined entertainment system user..." (see Williams, column 3, lines 21-25)

Wugofski teaches a computerized system for managing collections of favorite channels in a television or convergence environment. (see Wugofski paragraph [0027])

Thus, Applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill, upon reading either Williams and/or Wugofski would be discouraged from user preference information that includes registration patterns, which are selected first by a user, preceding a selection of corresponding search criteria, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above, independent claims 6 and 11 are believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are dependent from one of the amended independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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